

WOODLAND DEMOCRAT (CA)
23 January 1986

Sakharov: Hit Soviet Union with best America has to offer

By John Bachman
Staff writer

A former Soviet diplomat and KGB agent said Wednesday the best way to undermine the Soviet Union regime would be to bomb it with jazz and rock 'n' roll music.

Vladimir Sakharov, who turned double agent and went to work for the Central Intelligence Agency, said Wednesday that American culture should be used to attack the Soviet system.

"We will be able to get back at the Soviet Union with the best the United States has to offer," he said to an overflow crowd of 1,800 at UC Davis.

"There is a book hunger and there is a music hunger among Russian youth," he said.

"Many of our perceptions of the United States," he said of Soviet youth, "are based on the first experience we had."

Economic sanctions do nothing but hurt the United States and leave the Soviet Union with closer ties to other countries, he said.

Bombarding the Soviet Union with music, books and other cultural items would leave more Soviets disgruntled with the their system and might force the government to free the reins holding them back.

Sakharov was also critical of many other aspects of both the treatment and image of the Soviet Union by Americans. He cited such things as the way American intelligence uses positioning at parades to decide who is in power and the image of all Russians as drab.

Sakharov, who is in his early 40s, said one his first impressions of the United States was formed when he saw a show where American models and Cadillacs

were shown.

"I had one question in my mind," he said. "How do you get to America?"

Sakharov became a Soviet diplomat in Kuwait and helped with the ousting of Soviet intelligence from Egypt. He said the Soviet Union is very hesitant to use force in the Middle East and probably would not have done anything if the United States had recently attacked Libya.

Sakharov holds a Ph.D in international relations for the University of Southern California and has just started teaching at the University of Arizona.

"I graduated from there," he said of USC, "before they started selling degrees."

He was credited with foreseeing Andropov's ascendancy and predicting the natural gas pipeline would become a reality with the help of Japanese and West German technology.

The new generation of leaders currently moving into power did not experience World War II, he said, comparing them to the Yuppie generation in America.

"The Soviet Union is not what we picture," he said. "We are dealing with a new generation of leaders born after World War II."

Sakharov added the Soviet Union has many more diplomats and agents trained in languages which gives the Soviet Union an enormous advantage around the world.

Sakharov has been on both sides of the spy world and is an analyst of international affairs. He said one of the biggest dangers isn't the United States or Soviet Union exploding a nuclear bomb, but rather a third country explod-



Vladimir Sakharov

ing one.

Russians are currently a minority in the Soviet Union, he said, which will cause many problems and exacerbate the communication problems that currently exist because of the many different cultures and languages.

"This will be a problem that will plague Soviet performance," he said.

The Russian demographics will continue to change, he added, because of people — especially in cities — are not having as many children.

Drinking and alcoholism plus a lack of incentive for Soviet workers also take an enormous toll on the country's productivity.

"Unless you drink," he said, "you are not a man according to an old Russian tradition."